

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service
NA

MPO

Reply to: 3410

Date: July 23, 1991

Subject: Aerial Survey, Allegheny National Forest, June 1991

To: Forest Supervisor
Allegheny National Forest

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On June 24-26, Kelly Riddle conducted an aerial survey for recent forest pest damage on the Allegheny National Forest. The attached map shows the general location of the damage observed.

The most significant damage occurred on approximately 23,000 acres of northern hardwood type in the Ridgway (20,350 acres) and Bradford (2,560 acres) Ranger Districts and was caused by a complex of defoliators known as loopers. The two main species in this outbreak were the elm spanworm and the linden looper. The loopers seemed to be concentrating their feeding on American beech with some red and sugar maple also being defoliated. The acreages listed above are a reflection of what was observed from the air, however, it is probable that these estimates are low as many acres of beech understory were affected that could not be seen from the air. Outbreaks of this type are normally short lived and do not usually result in extensive amounts of tree mortality.

Gypsy moth defoliation was once again observed on the Allegheny National Forest, but was not as severe as expected following our fall egg mass surveys. Two isolated areas of moderate defoliation were observed west of the Allegheny River between West Hickory and Tidioute. However, subsequent ground checks revealed that the defoliation actually was continuous between the two areas, with defoliation being most severe on the ridge tops and decreasing in intensity as it moved down the slope toward the river. This area has experienced fairly significant mortality from past outbreaks and we will possibly see additional mortality from this year's defoliation.

The only other damage observed was caused by forest fire and occurred west of Tionesta in the drainages of Jamison and Dawson Runs.

In addition to aerial survey reports, Forest Health Protection personnel have also received several reports of cucumber tree defoliation in and around State Gamelands No. 29 within the Sheffield District. Ground checks of that area revealed what appears to be a scale insect which is causing the defoliation. Additional information concerning the identification of the pest and potential damage will be reported as soon as collected samples can be returned to the lab and identified.